

News

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UTAH WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2004

Fatal work injuries totaled 50 in 2004 for Utah, down from 54 in 2003, a decrease of 7 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the 2004 workplace fatality count was the lowest recorded since the fatality census began in 1992. Though the most frequent event, highway incidents (23), decreased slightly over the year, the percentage of fatalities attributed to highway incidents reached its highest level on record, accounting for almost one-half of the fatal occupational injuries in 2004. (See table A.)

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in Utah by selected event groups, 1992 - 2004

Year	Total	Highway incidents		Falls to lower level		Struck by object		Homicides	
	fatalities	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	59	10	17	—	—	5	8	4	7
1993	66	21	32	7	11	11	17	—	—
1994	66	18	27	7	11	11	17	3	5
1995	51	17	33	4	8	4	8	5	10
1996	64	16	25	4	6	8	13	3	5
1997	66	26	39	4	6	10	15	—	—
1998	67	23	34	10	15	3	4	—	—
1999	54	21	39	5	9	9	17	—	—
2000	61	21	34	5	8	5	8	—	—
2001	65	20	31	4	6	10	15	7	11
2002	52	18	35	—	—	3	6	3	6
2003	54	24	44	3	6	7	13	—	—
2004	50	23	46	6	12	5	10	4	8

NOTE: Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

While the number of on-the-job fatalities due to highway incidents in Utah was little changed from 2003 to 2004, nationally, the number of highway incidents was up slightly. However, the percentage of fatal work injuries caused by highway crashes in the U.S. was unchanged over the year, accounting for about one out of every four fatalities in 2004. (See table B.)

Fatal work injuries resulting from falls to a lower level doubled over the year in Utah, from 3 in 2003 to 6 in 2004. In 2004, falling to a lower level accounted for 12 percent of the total number of job-related deaths in Utah and 13 percent of the U.S. total.

The number of workers in Utah who were fatally injured by being struck by an object declined to 5 in 2004. Fatal work injuries resulting from being struck by an object accounted for 10 percent of fatalities in both the State and the nation in 2004.

Workplace homicides in Utah totaled 4 in 2004 and represented 8 percent of the State's total workplace fatalities. Nationally, homicides accounted for 10 percent of all work-related fatalities in 2004.

Other causes of fatalities in Utah in 2004 included 3 non-highway transportation incidents (such as tractor rollovers occurring on farm premises). Such non-highway incidents accounted for 6 percent of all fatal work injuries in both the State and the U.S. in 2004. (See table 1.)

Nationwide, a total of 5,703 fatal work injuries were reported in 2004, an increase of 2 percent from the revised total of 5,575 fatalities reported for 2003. Despite the increase, the total for 2004 was the third lowest annual total recorded by the fatality census, which has been conducted yearly since 1992. (See table B.) Fatal highway incidents were up slightly in 2004 after declining the two previous years and continued to be the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities. Fatalities resulting from both falls to a lower level and being struck by an object represented the highest annual totals ever reported by the fatality census for these events. The number of work-related deaths from falls to a lower level increased from 604 in 2003 to 732 in 2004, while workplace fatalities resulting from being struck by an object were up from 531 in 2003 to 596 in 2004.

The number of workplace homicides recorded in the U.S. in 2004 dropped sharply from the number reported in 2003. The 551 workplace homicides in 2004 represented a 13 percent decline over the year and was the lowest annual total yet recorded by the fatality census. Overall, workplace homicides were down 49 percent from the high of 1,080 recorded in 1994 (excluding the 2,886 work-related homicides resulting from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001).

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected event groups, 1992-2004

Year	Total fatalities	Highway incidents		Falls to lower level		Struck by object		Homicides	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	507	8	557	9	1,044	17
1993	6,331	1,242	20	534	8	565	9	1,074	17
1994	6,632	1,343	20	580	9	591	9	1,080	16
1995	6,275	1,346	21	578	9	547	9	1,036	17
1996	6,202	1,346	22	610	10	582	9	927	15
1997	6,238	1,393	22	653	10	579	9	860	14
1998	6,055	1,442	24	625	10	520	9	714	12
1999	6,054	1,496	25	634	10	585	10	651	11
2000	5,920	1,365	23	659	11	571	10	677	11
2001 ¹	5,915	1,409	24	700	12	553	9	643	11
2002	5,534	1,373	25	638	12	505	9	609	11
2003 ²	5,575	1,353	24	604	11	531	10	632	11
2004	5,703	1,374	24	732	13	596	10	551	10

¹ Totals for 2001 exclude fatalities resulting from the September 11 terrorist attacks.

² The BLS news release issued September 22, 2004, reported a total of 5,559 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2003. Since then, an additional 16 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2003 to 5,575.

Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in Utah in 2004:

- Men accounted for 92 percent of the work-related fatalities in the State with 46 deaths. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities, accounted for 61 percent of these deaths. Four women were fatally injured on the job in 2004. (See table 2.)
- In Utah, 84 percent (42) of those who died from a workplace injury in 2004 were white, non-Hispanic, up from 76 percent (41) in 2003. In contrast, Hispanic or Latino workers fatally injured on the job accounted for 10 percent (5) of the total in 2004, down from 20 percent (11) in 2003. The leading cause of death for white, non-Hispanic workers was transportation incidents (26), followed by falls (6), contact with objects and equipment (5), and assaults and violent acts (4). Among Hispanic or Latino workers, transportation incidents were responsible for 3 of the 5 job-related deaths. (See table 2.)
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—made up 72 percent or 36 of the State's work-related fatalities in 2004. Three workers fatally injured on the job were 20-24 years old and 11 were 55 years of age or older.(See table 2.)
- Ninety percent of workers killed on-the-job in Utah worked for wages and salaries and the rest were self-employed. Work-related deaths resulting from transportation incidents accounted for the largest number of fatalities (28) among wage and salary workers. Contact with objects and equipment resulted in 6 deaths, while assaults and violent acts and falls each resulted in 5 deaths among wage and salary workers. (See table 2.)

- Ninety-two percent of Utah's workplace fatalities occurred in private industry with 40 percent of all fatalities concentrated in two private industry sectors— construction recorded 13 deaths and administrative and support and waste management and remediation services reported 7. Transportation incidents were the leading cause of deaths in both sectors. (See table 3.)
- From an occupational perspective, jobs in transportation and material moving recorded the highest number of fatalities at 16, followed by construction and extraction occupations with 11 work-related deaths. Together, these two occupational groups accounted for over half of all work-related fatalities in Utah. Transportation incidents accounted for most of the fatalities in the transportation and material moving occupations, while contact with objects and equipment was the leading cause of fatal injuries in construction and extraction occupations. (See table 4.)

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Internet site at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoil.htm>. Data can be accessed in two ways, through Create Customized Tables, which allows quick access to particular items, or via the special request FTP service, which allows access to an extensive collection of flat text files. For personal assistance or further information, contact the Kansas City Economic Analysis & Information Office at 816-426-2481 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Background of the program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program, provides a complete count of fatal work injuries. The program uses diverse state and federal data sources to identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (occupation and other worker characteristics, equipment being used, and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, and reports to federal and state agencies. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

Definitions

For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. These criteria are generally broader than those used by federal and state agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2004 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any intentional or unintentional wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or kinetic energy from a crash, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event, incident, or series of events within a single

workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

Information on work-related fatal illnesses is not reported in the BLS census and is excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work exposures make identification of a universe problematic.

Measurement techniques and limitations

Data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries are compiled from various federal, state, and local administrative sources--including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, reports to various regulatory agencies, medical examiner reports, and police reports--as well as news and other non-governmental reports. Diverse sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved.

Federal/state agency coverage

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether the decedent was working in a job covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used by each agency.

Several federal and state agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in states with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of the nation's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and highway, water, rail, and air transportation, are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation.

Fatalities occurring among several other groups of workers are generally not covered by any federal or state agencies. These groups include self-employed and unpaid family workers, which accounted for about 20 percent of the nation's fatalities; laborers on small farms, accounting for about 1 percent; and state and local government employees in states without OSHA-approved safety programs, which accounted for about 4 percent. (Approximately one-half of the states have approved OSHA safety programs, which cover state and local government employees.)

Acknowledgments

BLS thanks the Utah Occupational Safety and Health Statistics for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, state, local, and private sector agencies that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the

Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); the Department of Energy; state vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; state departments of health, labor and industries, and workers' compensation agencies; state and local police departments; and state farm bureaus.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure and major private industry¹ sector, Utah, 2004

Event or exposure ²	Total fatalities (number)	Goods producing				Service providing							
		Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining ³	Construction	Manufacturing	Total service providing	Trade, transportation, and utilities	Information	Financial activities	Professional and business services	Education and health services	Leisure and hospitality	Other services
Total.....	50	25	8	13	4	21	8	--	--	9	3	--	--
Contact with objects and equipment.....	7	7	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by object.....	5	5	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by falling object.....	4	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Falls.....	6	6	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall to lower level.....	6	6	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation incidents.....	30	10	3	5	--	18	7	--	--	8	--	--	--
Highway incidents.....	23	6	--	3	--	15	7	--	--	7	--	--	--
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment.....	9	--	--	--	--	6	--	--	--	3	--	--	--
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming.....	5	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	3	--	--	--
Vehicle struck stationary object, equipment on side of road.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noncollision incidents.....	10	--	--	--	--	7	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jack-knifed or overturned--no collision.....	9	--	--	--	--	6	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nonhighway incidents, except rail, air, water.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts.....	6	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts by person(s).....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Shooting.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, 2002, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Data for 2004 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics and event or exposure, Utah, 2004

Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ¹					
		Transportation incidents ²	Assaults and violent acts ³	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environ- ments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	50	30	6	7	6	--	--
Employee Status							
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴	45	28	5	6	5	--	--
Self-employed ⁵	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sex							
Men.....	46	28	4	7	6	--	--
Women.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Age							
Under 16 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16 to 17 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18 to 19 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20 to 24 years.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	10	9	--	--	--	--	--
35 to 44 years.....	14	7	4	--	--	--	--
45 to 54 years.....	12	8	--	--	--	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	8	4	--	--	--	--	--
65 years and over.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Race or Ethnic Origin⁶							
White, non-Hispanic.....	42	26	4	5	6	--	--
Black, non-Hispanic.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hispanic or Latino.....	5	3	--	--	--	--	--
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asian.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

² Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

³ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

⁴ May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

⁵ Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, and may include some owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships.

⁶ Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race

categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2004 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Utah, 2004

Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ²					
			Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....		50	30	6	7	6	--	--
Private Industry.....		46	28	4	7	6	--	--
Goods Producing.....		25	10	--	7	6	--	--
Natural Resources and Mining.....		8	3	--	3	--	--	--
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting.....	11	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mining⁵.....	21	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mining (except Oil and Gas).....	212	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction.....		13	5	--	--	4	--	--
Construction.....	23	13	5	--	--	4	--	--
Specialty Trade Contractors.....	238	9	3	--	--	--	--	--
Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors.....	2381	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Specialty Trade Contractors.....	2389	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Site Preparation Contractors.....	23891	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Other Nonresidential Site Preparation Contractors.....	238912	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing.....		4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing.....	31-33	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Service providing.....		21	18	3	--	--	--	--
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities.....		8	7	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and Warehousing.....	48-49	5	5	--	--	--	--	--
Truck Transportation.....	484	5	5	--	--	--	--	--
Specialized Freight Trucking.....	4842	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking, Long-Distance.....	48423	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Professional and Business Services.....		9	8	--	--	--	--	--
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services.....	56	7	7	--	--	--	--	--

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Utah, 2004 - continued

Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ²					
			Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Administrative and Support Services.....	561	6	6	--	--	--	--	--
Education and Health Services		3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Government⁵		4	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

⁵ Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, 2002, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

⁶ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2004 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, Utah, 2004

Occupation ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ²					
		Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	50	30	6	7	6	--	--
Management occupations.....	8	3	3	--	--	--	--
Other management occupations.....	6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sales and related occupations.....	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Construction and extraction occupations.....	11	3	--	5	3	--	--
Construction trades workers.....	6	--	--	3	--	--	--
Extraction workers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	16	13	--	--	--	--	--
Motor vehicle operators.....	13	11	--	--	--	--	--
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers.....	13	11	--	--	--	--	--
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer.....	13	11	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification System.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately.

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2004 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries